ointed for selection of Tableaux for the Republic Day Parade 1995. None of the proposals was considered by the Committee to be of a standard as to merit inclusion in the Parade as they were lacking in visual and aesthetic appeal.

Visit of the US Defence Secretary

596. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Defence Secretary, Mr. William Perry, visited New Delhi in January, 1995, with a view to fine tuning the Indo-US defence relations; and

(b) if so, the details of discussions held with him and his team and what was the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Dr. William Perry did visit India during January 1995.

(b) During the visit of the US Defence Secretary, Dr. William Perry to New Delhi, in January, 1995, discussions were held on matter of mutual interest. This is in line with Government's stand that steps towards improvement of our bilateral defence relations with the US, as with other friendly countries, will be taken in a manner consistent with our national interest. An 'Agreed Minute' on Defence relations between India and the United States was also signed during the visit.

Seminar on Army-Media relationship

597. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seminar on Army-Media relationship was held in Shillong sometime in December, 1994;

(b) if so, what was the basic objective of the seminar.

(c) what are the suggestions made at the seminar for better relationship between Army and the Media; and

(d) what steps have been taken to implement these suggestions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Seminar was held in November, 1994, at Umroi Cantt in Meghalaya to enhance media awareness amongst the Army Officers and to identify areas requiring improvements in the existing systems.

(c) It was recognised at the seminar that media can play an important role in countering the propaganda unleashed by our adversaries. More openness within the framework of the existing rules and regulations and requirements national security was recommended. A suggestion for organising short capsules for defence correspondants was also made.

(d) Army Headquarters have been geared up for providing timely inputs to the Director of Public Relations in the Ministry of Defence so as to dispel misgivings that may arise due to non-factual media reports. Correspondents are also taken to different locations to cover defence related news.

Representation by officers dismissed under Samba spy case

598. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several army officers falsely implicated in the 1970 Samba spy scandal have, in the wake of recent Supreme Court orders making the arbitrary dismissals from the army subject to judicial review, represented to Government for a judicial review; and